

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DeGETTE, Diana L. (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Colorado
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Tachikawa, Japan - 29 July 1957

Home: Denver, Colorado

Marital Status: Married (Lino Lipinsky) - 2 daughters

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Colorado College, B.A.; New York University, J.D.

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer (specialist in civil rights law)

Political: CO House, 1993-present. Won the seat of retiring Rep Pat Schroeder (D) with 57% of

the vote, defeating Joe Rogers (R). Reelected in 2000 with 69% of the vote and in 2002 with 66%.

Rep DeGette, a liberal, opposes abortion restrictions. Supports increased funds to clean up the nation's superfund sites, including Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Supported bill permitting covered beneficiaries under the military health care system who are also entitled to Medicare to join FEHBP and a bill to establish a demonstration project to evaluate the cost effectiveness of using the Medicare Trust Fund to reimburse DoD for certain health care services provided to Medicare-eligible covered military beneficiaries. Also supports legislation to permit overseas abortion services for female military personnel and dependents. Supports making public the aggregate budget totals for US intelligence-related activities. Opposes sending high-level nuclear waste to the Yucca Mt storage facility until the DoE certifies the site for such storage. Particularly opposed the shipment of nuclear waste through major metro areas such as Denver. Despite receiving \$500 in PAC funds from Northrop, Rep DeGette--characterized as a "swing-vote" on the B-2--voted to terminate production of the aircraft.

In the 106th Congress, questioned national priorities which she said were reflected in the DoD Appns bill in general and the F-22 funding in particular. Said several test F-22 fighters will be purchased by the US at a cost of \$300M per plane. Remarked that every uninsured child in Colorado who suffers because he or she cannot receive health care could be covered at half the price of a single F-22 fighter. Supported the President's request for Kosovo, but said she could not support the additional supplemental appropriations. Urged her colleagues to pass the \$6 billion the military needs to continue operating the NATO effort and then debate the merits of additional, non-emergency funding in another, less urgent forum. Called a "backbencher" on the issue, was one of 74 Members to vote both against approving air attacks over Yugoslavia and against stopping them, thus being able to claim either position for future political needs.

In the 107th Congress, urged DOD to revise its policy of requiring all active duty and select-reserve personnel to receive the anthrax vaccine. Cited the FDA's concern that current vaccines are out-of-date and have potential serious side-effects.

Additional: District includes the Fitzsimon Army Medical Center which closed in 1994 and is being converted into a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Aurora and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a former chemical weapons storage site being converted into a wildlife preserve.

AF Bases: Buckley AFB, Rocky Mt. Annex; (Lowry AFB closed on 30Sep94)

COMMITTEES

